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PREFACE

This report is appearing at a time when organized events are about to take place in all countries to celebrate the Red Cross Centenary. The report shows that, during the 99th year of its existence, the International Committee of the Red Cross has endeavoured to fulfil its task in the spirit of its great predecessors, whose memory is being celebrated today by the entire world.

Indeed, in spite of the enormous changes which have occurred in one century, mankind today is no less in need of an institution like the Red Cross than it was before ; on the contrary, it often seems that its necessity is felt even more acutely. The actions which are briefly described herein show proof of this once more.

In 1962 the ICRC carried out missions of an extremely varied nature in the most different regions of the world, where it endeavoured to mitigate suffering, often, unfortunately, with only too limited means. However, in addition to this, it was faced with completely new situations, especially in the Cuban crisis. This event, which confronted the ICRC with a most dramatic problem, illustrated the confidence which all sides placed in the International Committee of the Red Cross and of which it attempts constantly to be worthy, by using it for improving the well-being of all victims which fall to its charge, and by encouraging solidarity and understanding between the nations.

Léopold BOISSIER,
President

